



Best Value Statement

BASE Academy Trust

Policy Reviewed:	September 2024
Next Review:	September 2025
Signature of Chair of Trust Board: Craig Graham	Signature of Executive Headteacher: Lisa Whittaker

BASE Academy Trust

BEST VALUE STATEMENT 2024

Introduction

The Trust Board, in consultation with Local Governing Boards, is accountable for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's development plans. Trustees and Local Governors need to secure the best possible outcome for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This will lead to continuous improvement in each school's achievements and services

What Is Best Value?

Trustees and Local Governors will apply the four principles of **best value**:

- **Challenge** - Is the school's performance high enough? Why and how is a service provided? Do we still need it? Can it be delivered differently? What do parents want?
- **Compare** - How does the school's pupil performance and financial performance compare with all schools? How does it compare with LA schools? How does it compare with similar schools?
- **Consult** - How does the school seek the views of stakeholders about the services the school provides?
- **Compete** - How does the school secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

The Trustees'/Governors' & School Managers' Approach

The Trustees, Local Governors and school managers will apply the principles of *best value* when making decisions about:

- the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the school.
- the targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.
- the use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.

Trustees, Local Governors, and the school managers, will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. The Efficiency metric tool uses data to allow schools to gauge their efficiency based on both pupil progress and school spending.
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, expansion to 3-form entry,
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup, e.g. provision of computer suite, redecoration
- consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. Sex and Relationships Education, pupil reports, assigned inspector, Ofsted, maintenance consultant, Borough Energy Group.

This will apply in particular to:

- staffing
- use of premises
- use of resources
- quality of teaching
- quality of learning
- purchasing
- pupils' welfare
- health and safety.

Trustees, Local Governors and school managers:

- will not waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved
- will not waste time and resources to make minor savings in costs
- will not waste time and resources by seeking tenders for minor supplies and services.

The pursuit of minor improvements or savings is not cost effective if the administration involves substantial time or costs. Time wasted on minor improvements or savings can also distract management from more important or valuable areas.

Staffing

Trustees, Local Governors and school managers will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult-pupil ratio, and curriculum management.

Use of Premises

Trustees, Local Governors and school managers will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching & learning, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

Use of Resources

Trustees, Local Governors and school managers will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide pupils and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

Teaching

Trustees, Local Governors and school managers will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and pupils with:

- a curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and the needs of pupils within each school
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement.

Learning

Trustees, Local Governors and school managers will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, measures of progress from KS1-KS2

Purchasing

Trustees, Local Governors and school managers will develop procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place as per the procurement & tendering policy include:

- competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £15,000)
- procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship)
- procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £2,500 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment).

Pupils' Welfare

Trustees, Local Governors and school managers will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos, in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

Health & Safety

Trustees, Local Governors and school managers will review the quality of the school environment and equipment, carrying out risk assessments where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house monitoring by the Executive Headteacher, Head of School and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Termly target setting meetings between the Executive Headteacher/ Head of School and curriculum managers
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Head Teacher's monthly financial review
6. Termly visits by the School Improvement Partner
7. Monthly returns to the LA Finance Adviser
8. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results, 11+ results against all schools, LA schools, similar schools
9. Analysis of LA pupil performance data
10. Analysis of financial data against benchmark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
11. Analysis of DCSF pupil performance data, e.g. RAISE
12. Ofsted Inspection reports
13. Local Governors' termly classroom observations/ link visits
14. Trustee full termly meetings
15. Local Governors' full termly meetings
16. Trustees Annual Finance Review
17. Local Governors' Annual SATs Target Setting Meeting
18. Local Governors' Annual Development Plan Meeting
19. Trustees/ Local Governors' Annual Report to Parents

In the next three years the Trustees, in consultation with each Local Governing Body will:

- hold an annual performance plan meeting to set targets for improving pupil achievement.
- hold an annual development plan meeting.
- discuss "Best Value" at each Autumn Term meeting of the Resources Committee.
- review their "Best Value" statement at each Autumn Term meeting.
- consider best value when arranging internal and external redecoration contracts.
- employ a maintenance consultant to advise on maintenance of the schools' buildings.
- obtain tenders and a consultant's advice on any large scale refurbishment of the premises.
- obtain assessment management surveys.

Confirmation the Best Value Statement in respect of BASE Academy Trust has been discussed by the Trust Board.

Signed by:

Chair of Trust: Date:

Executive Headteacher: Date:

Agreed at the Trustee meeting:

Minute Reference: